

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 18, 2021  
**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS  
**FROM:** MARGARET ORLANDO & LAURA DURHAM, DIVISION CHIEFS  
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION  
**SUBJECT:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM IV

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**2021-2022 OSTP Modified School Year Update:**

- The Recreation Services Division is still in the process of recruiting new staff for all the program locations. Although we have been able to offer positions to several new hires, the division has lost additional staff to full time work and are mostly replacing staff who have left. Due to this hiring issue, there has been no ability to add children to the program and enrollment numbers have remained the same. However, even with the challenges, there are about 1000 youth enrolled in traditional OSTP at the recreation centers and school locations who are enjoying many fun and enriching activities after school. In addition, there are 200 youth participating in LINK Clubs at Ferdinand T. Day and Hammond which provide academic support in addition to wrap-around childcare support and recreational activities.

**Program Updates:**

- The Sports Section organized a fall season for tee-ball and coach pitch levels of baseball for the first time. Traditionally, the program has been a spring sport. Final games will be played the weekend of November 20 for the 106 participants that registered for the fall season.
- Adult Sports Leagues will wrap up regular season games in the next few weeks and end the season with playoffs and championships. For the return of adult sports leagues, there were eight coed soccer teams, three coed volleyball teams and seven coed softball teams.
- Charles Houston Halloween Bingo & Pumpkin Carving. Charles Houston hosted its first annual bingo and pumpkin carving night. Families enjoyed carving out their scariest pumpkins followed by a few snacks and bingo.
- Charles Houston had boo-fest. Families got dressed and joined us for a dressed a goblin good time. Festivities included a costume parade, carnival games, moon bounce, arts and crafts, spooky stories, and more! This fun filled spooky festival was a good time for the entire family.

- Halloween 2021 at Nannie J. Lee was a Spooktacular BLAST!!! So much has changed in the last 18 months, but our love for Halloween is stronger than ever. Even though we couldn't celebrate to the full compacity, we were able to wake the dead every Friday with fun edible art. The thrills started with some spooky Rice Krispy treats, the thrills continued with an edible graveyard "Edible Dirt", and Mummy Hotdogs. Our Halloween celebration ended with a Spooktacular trunk-o-treat express. Participants enjoyed making Halloween crafts, playing fun and spooky cooperative group games and the highlight of the celebration was the game truck. Our YAG participants were able to enjoy video games on big screen tv's.
- Chinquapin: Annual Floating Pumpkin Patch on October 29. Families enjoyed swimming, pumpkin decorating, and music.
- Chinquapin: Breast Cancer Awareness Month: Staff and customers wore pink masks to bring awareness and acknowledge Breast Cancer Awareness month
- Story Board Walk Lunch Event with the Alexandria Libraries. Over 90 community members came and enjoyed a story reading and live Dragon show. The story boards are located on the Holmes Run Parkway trail. The story walk is still available for families to enjoy!

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Winter Basketball League Coaches Meeting – Thursday, November 17 @ 7 p.m.
- Girls' Volleyball League Championship Games – Friday, December 10 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Jefferson-Houston
- Winter Basketball League Coaches Clinic directed by Washington Wizards – Saturday, December 11 @ 10 a.m. @ George Washington
- Winter Break Camp offerings-
  - December 20<sup>th</sup>-December 24<sup>th</sup> half day and full day options, ages 4-14yrs; Hoop Life Basketball Camp, Abrakadoodle Art Camp, Nerf Fencing Camp, Winter Wonderland Camp, Gymnastics
  - December 27<sup>th</sup>- December 31<sup>st</sup> haf day and full day options, ages 4-14yrs; Hoop Life Basketball Camp, Abrakadoodle Art Camp, Lil Lacrosse Camp, Winter Wonderland Camp, Pin in 4 Fun Art Camp, and Gymnastics
- Santa Funderland- Encounter the magic of the holiday season at Santa's Funderland! Our festively decorated historic gym is sure to warm your heart and delight your child. Create holiday themed crafts decorate edible snacks and engage in activities.
- Gobble Wobble Aqua Burn: Day After Thanksgiving Aqua Zumba and Hi/Lo Aerobics- November 26.
- Chinquapin: Thanksgiving Break Gymastics Camp: Kids 5-10
- Chinquapin: Water Explores Sing-along, Families will enjoy a sing-along while introducing their little one the water. Ages 6 months- 2.5

**Staff Updates:**

Mrs. Octavia Walker worked with the City of Alexandria Parks, Recreation & Cultural Activities for over 14 years. She resigned from her position as Recreation Leader I on October 29, 2021. She was an outstanding colleague and a joy to work with.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2021

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: OSCAR MENDOZA, DIVISION CHIEF - PARK OPERATIONS, RPCA

SUBJECT: PARK OPERATIONS MONTHLY UPDATE

### 1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

#### a. Park Maintenance

- Staff elevated trees and brush from the fence line and walkway to create better visibility for users.

#### b. Park Facilities Maintenance

- The maintenance team started winterization for the 2021 season. We winterized all irrigation, drinking fountains, and several public restrooms as well.
- New toilet paper dispensers and sanitary cans were installed at Limerick restrooms.

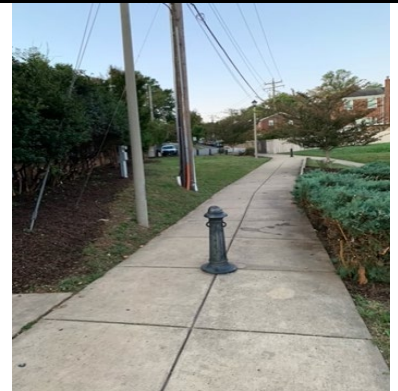
### 2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

#### a. Urban Forestry

- Worked with Tree Stewards, ACPS volunteers and RPCA Facilities Maintenance to plant trees at Ben Brenman Park, Beverley Park and Charles Barrett Elementary.
- Worked with Tree Stewards to pilot volunteer pruning at Ben Brenman Park.

#### b. Horticulture

- Community Gardens – are nearing the close out of this season. Both Community Garden groups conducted their 4<sup>th</sup> monitoring in October. Monitoring is completed 5 times throughout the season to ensure that the gardens are kept up and address any questions or issues of the gardeners. Staff attended the Chinquapin monthly



meeting. Renewal notices have gone out and gardeners are signing up for the 2022 season.

- Contracted landscape and mowing services – Scheduled landscape and mowing services ran through the end of October. Leaf removal services will begin.

### 3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

#### a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration

- Staff removed Porcelain-berry, English Ivy, Large Periwinkle, and other non-native invasive weeds from Dora Kelley Nature Park, Chinquapin Park, Fort Ward Park, Fort Williams Park, Forest Park, Chambliss Park, and Timberbranch Parkway.
- Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), in the removal of bamboo, privet, Porcelain-berry, Callery Pear, Bush Honeysuckle, and many other non-native invasive plants at 315 W. Alexandria Avenue along Timber Branch, Tarleton Park, Chambliss Park, and Ben Brenman Park Meadow.

#### b. Cooperative Initiatives

- Staff collaborated with the Jerome Ford Nature Center in hosting the 2021 Fall Native Plant Sale to help increase Alexandria's native tree canopy with ecologically valuable native trees and shrubs.
- On October 14, 2021 City Natural Resource Manager gave "The Benefits of Native Lawn Alternatives in Preserving Remnant Canopy Trees" via Zoom to the Virginia Native Plant Society Potowmack Chapter. A total of 266 persons registered for the event and 133 attended via Zoom.
- Staff installed interpretive signage at the native pollinator planters at Montgomery Park and the Ben Brenman Park Meadow.
- One hundred twenty-two City of Alexandria Herbarium (AVCH) specimens were delivered to the George Mason University Herbarium (GMUF) to be imaged and processed for the National Science Foundation funded SERNEC Virginia herbaria imaging project. Over 3,000 AVCH specimens have been imaged to date. Specimen records and images are available at [www.serneportal.org](http://www.serneportal.org).

#### c. Environmental Review

- Staff reviewed the Joseph Hensley Park 100% Design plans and provided comments.
- Staff reviewed planting and design plans for the Jerome Ford Nature Center native pollinator garden and provided comments.



*New dispensers at Limerick.*



*Interpretive signage at Ben Brenman Park Meadow*



*Interpretive signage at Montgomery Park*





#### 4. JEROME “BUDDIE” FORD NATURE CENTER

##### a. Programs/Updates:

- The Nature Center remained closed to public visitation during the month of October. We conducted 35 programs for a total of 827 participants.

##### School Programs:

- Environmental educators conducted 6 on-site programs and hikes for 80 pre-K and kindergarten students from Saint Stephen’s and Saint Agnes School. Students learned about the 5 senses and changes we can observe in the fall.
- Our first in-school programs for the schoolyear were conducted for James K. Polk Elementary. Staff presented 10 weather SOL programs for 200 1st and 2nd graders.
- We also resumed virtual programming with classes from Douglas MacArthur, Lyles-Crouch, and Patrick Henry Elementary Schools.

##### Outreach Programs:

- Our recreation center outreach programs for October focused on the seasonal changes of Fall. Environmental educators visited William Ramsay, Chick Armstrong, and Charles Houston Recreation Centers where we talked about the changes that occur during fall, and how the animals in our area adapt to the change in seasons, including hibernation and migration.
- The Nature Center participated in the book fair at Douglas MacArthur Elementary. We led a virtual reading of *Bear Snores On* and presented some of our hibernating animals from the Nature Center.
- Our educators took “magical” creatures to our friends at Beatley Library for our Magizoology program this Halloween. We discussed some of the mythical creatures found in the Harry Potter series and even met some of the real animals found in Harry Potter who live at the nature center!
- The Nature Center also participated in several Halloween events including Boo-Fest at Houston Recreation Center and Trunk-or-Treat with the William Ramsay Elementary PTSA.

##### Onsite Programs:

- On Friday, October 22 – 7 participants spent an evening at the nature center, learning about animals that hibernate during the winter. We played a winter game, ate lots of chocolate snacks, and met some of our resident animals!

*Old-age stand of Northern Red Oak (Quercus rubra) at the upper section of Fort Williams Park - RHS*



*Our educators attended a Trunk-or-Treat for students from the William Ramsay and John Adams Elementary School communities hosted by the William Ramsay PTSA.*



*Pre-k students from Saint Stephen’s and Saint Agnes School hike in DKNP to learn about their 5 senses.*



*First graders at Polk Elementary learn about seasonal changes and how ectothermic animals like our corn snake hibernate.*

- On Thursday, October 28 we hosted a virtual program, Animals of the Night where participants learned about our nocturnal animals and how they are adapted to thrive during the night.

b. Volunteers Hours:

- 5 volunteers reported 57 hours for the month of October. MGNV continue the redesign and overhaul of our pollinator garden.

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** NOVEMBER 18, 2021

**TO:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

**FROM:** JACK BROWAND, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR *JB*  
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, DIVISION CHIEF *BZ*  
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

**ITEM 4:** PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE  
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

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### Commission Presentations & Oral Reports

- Eugene Simpson Park Citywide Park Plan Amendment – *Public Hearing*

### Capital Improvement Project Updates

- November 2021 Park Planning, Capital Development & Waterfront Project Report  
(*Attached*)

### Small Area Plan & ACPS Modernization Coordination

- Landmark Mall
- Eisenhower East
- Potomac Yard North
- Arlandria-Chirilagua
- High School Project Minnie Howard Campus
- Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
- Patrick Henry K-8 & Recreation Center Restart (FY 2023)
- GenOn



# Park & Recreation Commission - Park Planning Report November 2021



Project	Project Description	Monthly Update	Status	Planning District	Target Completion Date	Assigned To
1 Open Space Policy Plan	This project will develop a framework for explaining Open Space and identifying policy change needs. City Council reinstated the Open Space Steering Committee with charge of work to be completed by FY 2023.	The Open Space Steering Committee met on 10/4. Co-chairs were designated by the City Manager and the Committee approved a draft Publicly Accessible Open Space definition, goals, guidelines, and typologies; and began discussion to provide recommendations for Open Space zoning text amendments.	Implementation	Citywide	06/30/23	Ana Vicinanza
2 Maxicom System Integration Phase IV	This project funds the design of efficient water management systems, including the conversion of manual irrigation controllers to automatic (smart irrigation) controllers.		Implementation	Citywide	06/30/20	Oscar Mendoza
3 City Arts Relief and Recovery Support for Alexandria-based Artist(s) and Arts and Cultural Nonprofit Organizations	This project will fund Alexandria Arts Relief and Recovery (AARR) support to sustain the local arts economy by providing support to Alexandria-based arts and cultural nonprofit organizations and artist(s) whose programming and operations have been significantly	Staff teams are creating the administrative framework for the community program.	Initiation	Citywide	07/29/22	Diane Ruggiero
4 OSTP Enhanced Enrichment Programming and Financial Assistance Opportunities	After more than a year of virtual schooling due to Covid-19, this funding is intended to support enhanced enrichment opportunities for children in Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) subsidized Out of School Time Program (OSTP) after school and summer programs to employ vendors or teachers for project-based and social/emotional learning programs. These enrichments will assist with learning loss and will increase academic and	Six contractors were secured in September. Five contractors began sessions the week of September 27 and will continue through November 23. One contractor will begin in late October and continue through mid-December. Programs include chess, performing arts, science, physical fitness & health, and visual arts.	Implementation	Citywide	07/26/23	Margaret Orlando
5 Charles Barrett Rec Playground Design and Engineering	This project will renovate the existing playground and address stormwater management issues on site.	The design team made final edits to the plans and specifications. The plans were resubmitted in APEX on 10/29/21.	Close-out	District 2	12/15/20	Judy Lo
6 Simpson Dog Park Renovation	This project will address erosion and drainage issues in the Simpson Park dog park per the 2014 Citywide Parks Improvements Plan.	Design and bid documents are complete and under review by the City's Purchasing Division. The project is anticipated to be bid late	Procurement	District 2	12/30/22	Bethany Znidersic
7 Colasanto Interactive Fountain Design	This project will convert the existing closed Colasanto Pool to an interactive fountain per the 2012 Aquatics Plan. The renovated site will be an intergenerational, inclusive, multi-functional site that can be used year round.	The 60% design drawings were developed and submitted for regulatory review. The design phase is anticipated to be complete winter 2021/2022. Construction is anticipated mid 2022.	Planning	District 2	12/30/21	Bethany Znidersic
8 Four Mile Run Trail Bridge	This project will replace the existing bridge in Four Mile Run Park near the parking area for the two diamond fields at the end of Commonwealth Avenue.	Staff continue to refine the scope in preparation for full bridge replacement. Design award is anticipated in December 2021. The trail is anticipated to reopen with a new bridge in late 2022.	Planning	District 2	12/30/22	Jack Browand
9 Hensley Park Renovation	This project will renovate Hensley Park based on the Citywide Parks Improvement Plan concept (2014).	The revised 100% drawings were submitted for regulatory review in October. Department reviews are complete and the design team	Planning	District 3	12/01/23	Bethany Znidersic
10 High School Project	This project is a complete rebuild of the Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard school and athletic complex. The project includes the addition of an aquatics center for high school sanctioned aquatics sports and separate training pool. Outdoor athletic amenities include lighted rectangular field, tennis courts and basketball court; walking loop; and stadium seating.	RPCA continues to coordinate with ACPS and affiliate stakeholders on mitigating the displacement of activities displaced with the closing of the Minnie Howard field for construction. Planning continues for construction to begin in March 2022.	Planning	District 3	09/01/24	Jack Browand
11 AL Boothe Synthetic Turf Field Conversion	This project will convert the natural turf field in Armistead L. Boothe Park to synthetic turf.	The 90% design plans were reviewed by the City. Design is anticipated to be complete in December 2021 and the project will transition to the construction procurement phase. Construction is anticipated in early 2022.	Planning	District 3	05/02/22	Bethany Znidersic
12 Holmes Run Trail Repairs Construction	This project includes the restoration of four sections of Holmes Run Trail damaged and closed following July 2019 heavy rains.	4600 Duke Street crossing design was awarded and notice to proceed provided. Final award for design of the remaining three sections of damage trails was awarded and notice to proceed provided. Culvert crossing replacement at Holmes Run and Paxton St. was awarded, and Dora Kelly Park concrete bike and pedestrian minor trail erosion repairs awarded.	Planning	District 3	12/29/23	Jack Browand